

A
L E T T E R
F R O M
P A R I S :

C O N T A I N I N G

A Genuine and Particular ACCOUNT
of the Manner in which P——ce
C——les E——d was arrested ;
with all the minute Circumstances
of his Conveyance to the Castle of
Vincennes, &c.

Faithfully translated from the *French* Original.

By a L A D Y.

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COPY

OF A
LETTER
FROM A

FRENCH LADY, &c.

I Do not know, Sir, whether I can give you so circumstantial a Detail as you desire, of what happened upon the Day on which P——ce E——d was arrested. Whether it proceeds from the Ministers being afraid of the Populace, or from their being ashamed of the Manner in which they have conducted this Affair ; but at present they make Use of all possible Methods to disguise the Facts ; and if for the first two or three Days, they had taken the same Pains, I should have had

had nothing to communicate to you but publick Rumours ; but these I shall carefully avoid ; and if I am not sufficiently informed to give you all that is true, you may be assured, at least, of having nothing from me that is not true.

You and every one else have heard, that P——ce E——d refused to depart the Kingdom. Whether he grounded his Refusal upon a Treaty with *France*, or upon the Word and Faith of the King, he believ'd that the Bands of Union between his Majesty and him were too strong, not to induce him to think all Orders, Suppositions (as he call'd them) except such as his Majesty should be pleased to signify from his own Mouth.

This steady Conduct, which they little expected, appear'd extravagant to the Court : They were astonished at his attempting to oppose the Will of the King. Such an Opposition made them believe, that, after the Example of *Charles XII.* he wou'd stand a Siege in his own House. They gave out, that he threatened to kill the first Man
that

that shou'd offer to arrest him ; and that beginning thus by Murder, he would finish by Suicide : Monsieur the Duke *de Gevres*, and several others, were mentioned as Witnessees of these Declarations : But there is not one of them who does not deny their having ever heard any such thing. Among others, the Duke declares publicly, that the P—ce had always assur'd him, that he wou'd shew a Respect to all those who shou'd apply to him in the Name of the King.

This suppos'd Intention, however, giving the Alarm to the Council, and furnishing Matter for the Wisdom of the Ministers, made them, after mature Deliberation, resolve to have P——ce E——d seized by Surprise. The Passage leading to the Opera-House was chosen, as the most proper Place for arresting him. The P—ce appear'd every Day in some publick Assembly, either in the Walks, or in the Play-houses ; and, for some time before, he had even frequented them more than usual ; having probably resolv'd, that if they shou'd attempt any Violence;

Violence, it shou'd be done in Publick, that the World might see he did not willingly give up the Asylum, which had been promis'd him by *France*.

The Day of Execution being fixed, and the Orders given to Monsieur the Duke *de Biron*, Colonel of the *French* Guards, a Council of War was held at the Duke's House, in the Night, between *Monday* and *Tuesday* the Eleventh of *December*, which was composed of the Field-Officers and six Serjeants. They concerted the Methods for executing this Enterprize: The Officers, who were to have a Share in it, were commanded to repair to Mr. *de Vaudreuil's* before Day, in order to prevent their being perceived. The Duke *de Biron* went thither himself, and caus'd ten Ells of Crimson Silk Cord to be bought, and having drawn out 1200 Men of his Regiment, he order'd them to invest the * *Palace-Royal*. The Serjeants of the Regiment, armed with Curiaffes and Scul-Caps, had Direction to be in the Passage to the Opera-House, and in the Entrances of the

* The Opera-House at *Paris* is in this Palace.

the Houses bordering upon it. The Serjeants of the Grenadiers, as being the most intrepid, were ordered to seize the P—ce: Two Companies of Grenadiers took Post in the Court-Yard of the Kitchens, where the Duke *de Biron*, disguised and in a Coach, waited to see the Success of this Enterprize. The * Musquetairs had Orders to be ready to mount on Horseback: The † Guet was distributed in all the neighbouring Streets; Troops were posted upon the Road from the Palace-Royal quite to *Vincennes*; Hatchets and Scaling-Ladders were prepared, Locksmiths were directed to attend, in order to take the P—ce by a Scalade, in case he shou'd throw himself into some House, and there resolve to stand a Siege. Dr. *Vernage*, the Physician, and three Surgeons, were also ordered to be in Readiness to dress the Wounded.

The Measures thus taken, with all this Precaution and Secrecy, were notwithstanding

* A Body of *French* Horse-Guards.

† A Body of Men kept for guarding the Streets in *Paris*.

withstanding observ'd. The P—ce receiv'd that Morning several Notes, giving him Advice of the whole Design. At the * Tuilleries likewise he was advertised of it; and as he passed through the Street *St. Honore* going to the Opera, he heard a Voice call to him, *P—ce, return, they are going to arrest you, the Palace-Royal is beset.* Notwithstanding these Advices he went on, and in alighting from his Coach at the Passage of the Opera-House, he found the Guards doubled, with their Bayonets fix'd on the Muzzels of their Muskets; the Guet turning Passengers out of the Streets, and making the Coaches file off; and he was surrounded by the Serjeants dress'd in grey Cloaths, as if they had been Servants who were desirous to get a Sight of him, a popular Curiosity to which he had been much accustomed.

One Serjeant in his Uniform, advanced, under Pretence of dispersing the Mob, which was to be the Signal. At that Instant two Serjeants seized him

* Royal Gardens at *Paris*, where the Nobility are allow'd to walk.

him by the Arms behind, two seiz'd his Hands, one seiz'd him round the Middle, and another seiz'd his Legs. In this Condition they carried him to a great Gate at the End of the Passage, belonging to Mr. *de Maisar*, which opened into the Court-Yard of the Kitchens. Mr. *de Vaudreuil* and the other Officers waited for the P—ce behind this Gate, which they opened to receive him. *Monseigneur*, says Mr. *de Vaudreuil*, *I arrest you in the Name of the King my Master.*

The P—ce, without the least Change in his Countenance, answered, *The Manner is a little too violent.* According to their Orders, they carried him into a Hall upon the Ground-Floor, where they demanded his Arms: *I shall not deliver them to you*, says he, *but you may take them.* They took from him his Sword, a Knife with two Blades, and two Pistols. He said; *They must not be surpriz'd at seeing him have Pistols, for he constantly carried a Pair in his Pockets, ever since his Return from Scotland.* Mr. *de Vaudreuil* begg'd of him, not to make any Attempt either upon

his own Life, or that of any other Person; the P—ce gave him his Word he wou'd not. Then Mr. *de Vaudreuil* went to the Duke *de Biron's* Coach, to give an Account of what had pass'd. He inform'd him of the P—ce's being disarm'd, and of his having made no Resistance. The Duke judg'd, nevertheless, that for the greater Security, it was necessary to have him bound; which was executed by Mr. *de Vaudreuil*; who, in doing it, made his Excuse to the P—ce, by assuring him, that these Precautions were taken out of Regard to his Person, and solely to prevent his R. H. from making any Attempt upon himself. *I am not used to such Proceedings*, reply'd the P—ce, *and I shall not say whether they are justifiable or not, but the Disgrace cannot affect me, it can only affect your Master.* Mr. *de Vaudreuil*, while he was causing him to be bound, never ceased declaring, how much he was chagrin'd at having such a Commission to execute. *It is very mortifying for an Officer*, replies the P—ce. They proceeded, however. Both his Arms and Legs were tied,

tied, and they bound him with so much Cord, that looking disdainfully upon them, he asked, *Have you not enough now?* *Not yet,* answered Mr. *de Vaudreuil*, at which Words, the P—ce darted a menacing Look at him. They then put him into an hired Coach that waited in the Court-Yard of the Kitchens; Mr. *de Vaudreuil* placed himself by his Side, and two Captains over-against him. Two Officers on Horseback rode with a Hand upon the Door on each Side of the Coach; six Grenadiers, with their Bayonets fix'd, mounted behind, and the rest of the Soldiers surrounded the Coach on Foot. The whole Train took their Way through the Suburb of *St. Antoine*; and the Duke *de Biron*, after seeing them set out, stepp'd from his Coach into his Chaise, to go and give an Account of the whole to the King.

The P—ce suffer'd himself to be thus conducted, without allowing one Word to drop from him, which was unworthy the Greatness of his Soul, never uttering so much as the least Complaint, or one reproachful Expression.

pression. The Coach stopp'd in the Suburb of *St. Antoine*, where a Detachment of Musquetaires waited for it, and where they put fresh Horses to the Coach; and upon seeing these Preparations, the P—ce ask'd, *Where are we going, to Hanover?* *Monseigneur*, says Mr. de *Vaudreuil*, *they have changed Horses, that your R— H— may not be kept too long upon the Road.* The P—ce continued his Journey without saying a Word more, and they conducted him to *Vincennes*. The Marquis de *Chatelet*, who was known to the P—ce, and beloved by him, had just receiv'd Orders to put him in the Tower. The Coach arrives and passes the Bridge, which was that Moment drawn up. As soon as the P—ce had a Sight of M. de *Chatelet*, he calls to him, *I shou'd be glad to embrace you, come to me, my Friend, you see I cannot come to you.* M. de *Chatelet* perceiving he was bound, cried out with Horror, and running to him, caus'd him to be unbound, and assisted in it, trembling, and scarce able to support himself. *Come, come, my Friend*, says the P—ce,

P—ce, encouraging him, and so walked up the Stairs (which consisted of fifty Steps) to the Chamber appointed for his Lodging. Upon entering he coolly survey'd his Apartment, the Furniture of which consisted of a matted Chair and a wretched Camp-Bed. *This*, says he, *is not very magnificent* ; and then ask'd what was the Meaning of those Characters which he observed upon the Walls of the Room, *M. de Chatelet* answered, that they were the Handy-Work of a Priest who had made a long Abode in that Chamber. After some little time *Mr. de Vaudreuil* said, that his R— H— had not been thoroughly searched ; upon which *M. de Chatelet* ask'd the P—ce if he had any thing remaining, with which he cou'd make an Attempt upon himself ; whereupon he gave them a Pair of Compasses, and declared upon his Word, he had nothing more. *Mr. de Vaudreuil* took *M. de Chatelet* aside, and after whispering some time together, they return'd to the P—ce, and search'd him so strictly, that *Mr. de Vaudreuil* thrust his Hands
even

even into the most secret Parts of his Garments. Upon this the P—ce shew'd in his Countenance a Mark of great Indignation, but he uttered not a Word. They found a Pocket-Book, which, I am almost ashamed to tell you, they took from him. After this, M. de Chatelet observed that the P—ce's Chamber being very small, he cou'd not take a Walk in it; and that having been accustomed to a great deal of Exercise, his being inclosed in such a little Room, might be prejudicial to his Health. *Instead of taking one Turn, I shall take four,* says the P—ce; to which M. de Chatelet reply'd, that there was next to that a large Room, the Door of which should be opened, if his R— H—— would give his Word— but without giving him time to finish, the P—ce interrupted him, by saying, *I shall not give my Word; I have given it once already, and it was not taken; I shall therefore give it no more. I am undone,* cries M. de Chatelet, falling at his Feet, and pouring out a Flood of Tears, *Monseigneur, this is the most unfortunate Day of my Life.* The P—ce, with

with great Tenderness, gave him his Hand, and said, *I know your Friendship for me ; I shall never confound the Friend with the Governor. Do the Duties of your Office.* They ask'd him at what Hour he wou'd sup ; he answered, that he had din'd heartily and very late, and that he would call for something when he had a-mind to eat. Then he enquired, how they had treated the Gentlemen his Attendants ; *Have you,* says he, *bound my Englishmen, as you did me ? An Englishman is not used to be bound ; he is not made for that Purpose.* A little after, he reassumed the Discourse about his People thus : *If you have treated the Chevalier Harrington in the same Manner you have treated me, I heartily pity the poor Man ; He is fat, and must have suffered a great deal ?* At last finding that they refus'd to give him any Account of the Fate of his People, he spoke no more of them ; but walked about his Chamber, treating the Officers, appointed for his Guard, with Familiarity and Politeness, Mr. de Vaudreuil being the only Person to whom he did not direct his

C Discourse.

Discourse. After having walked a long time, he threw himself upon the Bed in his Clothes, but it was with Difficulty he cou'd compose himself. At last, however, he fell asleep; but his Sleep was so disturbed, that the Officers of his Guard being frightned, ran to his Bed-side, where they found him still fast asleep. He continued sleeping till Six in the Morning, when he awaked, and ask'd what it was o'Clock. Being told, he with a Smile, said, *The Nights seem here to be somewhat long.* He then got up, walk'd about his Chamber, talking freely with the Officers about indifferent Matters, and treated them as if they had belong'd to himself.

This, Sir, is what I have learned from an Officer, who is a Friend of mine, and who was one of those upon the P—ce's Guard. He was with Mr. *de Vaudreuil*, behind the Gate, at the Bottom of the Opera-House Passage. He saw the P—ce brought in, conducted him to *Vincennes*, and did not leave him till next Morning at Ten o'Clock. My Friend wou'd at first have denied the P—ce's having been bound,

bound, but finding that the Fact was averred, and made publick, he with Grief acknowledged it. He had conceived the highest Respect, and was struck with Admiration of P——ce E——d. *There never was*, said he, *so great a Man*: In his greatest Distress he did not discover the least Weakness: In all his Conversation he shew'd as much Temper and Magnanimity as any Man cou'd shew in the Height of Prosperity. Even in his Prison, he appear'd the Monarch of the Universe, and we seem'd to be his Subjects born to receive his Commands. Both Officers and Soldiers, upon their Return from *Vincennes*, spoke the like Sentiments as my Friend: They thought it their Duty not to conceal their Admiration. In less than four Hours all those Circumstances were spread over the whole City of *Paris*: P——ce E——d is there beloved; They respect his Virtues; They think he had merited an Asylum in *France*. The Publick, already in a Consternation at hearing of his being arrested, shew'd the utmost Indignation at the Treatment he

had receiv'd ; their Discourse was outrageous and without any Restraint. This Event was look'd on as a publick Calamity: In every House you went to, you found them in Tears: Men, Women, all weeping, all seem'd to lament the Loss of the Honour of their King, and of that of their Country ; and every one imagin'd, that each had receiv'd a personal Disgrace. In short, the publick Resentment was so furious, that it was thought necessary to give some pretended Reasons for binding the P—ce, and for the other Parts of the Treatment he had suffer'd. The Officers of the Guards were reprimanded by their Commanders, for having so much extolled the P—ce. They were ordered to say, that he attempted to throw himself out of the Coach ; that they had bound him, because after he had delivered one Pistol and given his Word that he had no more, they had, nevertheless, found another. But these Stories came too late. They cou'd not now contradict the Facts which they themselves had publickly related. Besides all the Officers,

ficers, except one or two, refused Obedience to this particular Command: They continued to speak with Admiration of the P—ce. Those who were so mean as to recant what they had said, were at length overwhelmed with Shame and obliged to be silent. And thus were all the Efforts to blacken the P—ce's Character render'd ineffectual.

F I N I S.



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edience to this particular Command:
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